Appl. No. 09/971,131 Amdt. Dated December 20, 2004 Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2004

## REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-16, 18-21, 23 and 24 are pending. Claims 1-6 are allowed. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowance for claims 1-6.

Claims 8-10, 12-16, 18-21, 23 and 24 stand rejected.

Claims 8–10, 12–16, 18–21, 23 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice.

It is believed that this amendment puts the case in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CALFEE, HALTER & GRISWOLD LLP

Date:  $\frac{12}{20}$  /  $\frac{0}{9}$ 

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